

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating an article, said apparatus comprising:
- an applicator comprising a convex exterior surface;
 - a conveyor for sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said applicator; and
 - a metering bar comprising a fixed arcuate end positioned against said convex exterior surface of said applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said convex exterior surface of said applicator for transfer from said convex exterior surface of said applicator to an article transported to said applicator by said conveyor,
 - said metering bar forming a nip with said convex exterior surface of said applicator and exerting a force against said applicator,
 - said predetermined amount of coating composition being determined, in part, by said force of said metering bar and a hydraulic force present at said nip; and
 - wherein said applicator comprises an endless belt.

Claims 2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second applicator and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator, said second applicator being positioned to receive the article from said conveyor.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar is positioned against said roller.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said second applicator comprises a roller.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said second applicator comprises an endless belt.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said apparatus is capable of substantially simultaneously

- a) transferring a coating composition from said first applicator to a first side of the article, and
- b) transferring a coating composition from said second applicator to a second side of the article opposite said first side of the article.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the article is a roll of tape and said apparatus is capable of substantially simultaneously

- a) transferring a coating composition from said first applicator to a first edge face of a roll of tape, and
- b) transferring a coating composition from said second applicator to a second edge face of the roll of tape opposite said first edge face of the roll of tape.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator and said second applicator are positioned to maintain the article between said first applicator and said second applicator.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for manufacturing coated articles, said system comprising

a first station comprising a coating apparatus comprising

an applicator comprising a convex exterior surface,

a conveyor capable of sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said applicator, and

a metering bar positioned against said convex exterior surface of said applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said convex exterior surface of said applicator for transfer from said convex exterior surface of said applicator to an article transported to said applicator by said conveyor,

said metering bar forming a nip with said convex exterior surface of said applicator and exerting a force against said applicator,

said predetermined amount of coating composition being determined, in part, by said force of said metering bar and a hydraulic force present at said nip; ~~and~~

a second station for solidifying the coating composition disposed on the article;

wherein said applicator comprises an endless belt,

Claims 20-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second applicator positioned to receive the article from said conveyor, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator.

26. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second applicator positioned opposite said first applicator, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said second applicator comprises a roller.

28. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

Claims 29-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently amended) A system for manufacturing coated articles, said system comprising

a first station comprising a coating apparatus comprising

~~an~~ first applicator comprising an endless belt,

a conveyor capable of sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said first applicator, and

a metering bar positioned against said first applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said first applicator for transfer to the article transported to said first applicator by said conveyor;

a second applicator positioned to receive the article from said conveyor, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator, wherein said second applicator is positioned opposite said first applicator; and

a second station for solidifying the coating composition disposed on the article.

Claims 59-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Withdrawn) A method of coating an article using the coating apparatus of claim 1, said method comprising:

applying a liquid coating composition to said applicator; and
transferring said coating composition from said applicator to the article.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein said coating composition has a viscosity of at least about 19 cps.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, further comprising curing said coated composition.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, further comprising drying said coated composition

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein the article comprises a roll of tape comprising a first edge face and a second edge face, and said transferring comprises transferring said coating composition from said applicator to the first edge face of the roll of tape.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66, wherein the end of said metering bar positioned against said applicator has a radius of at least about 4 mm.

68. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66, wherein said metering bar exerts a force of at least about 35 g/cm width against said applicator.

69. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66, wherein said metering bar exerts a force of from about 45 g/cm width to about 900 g/cm width against said applicator.

70. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66, wherein said apparatus further comprises a conveyor positioned relative to said applicator for transporting a roll of tape to said applicator,

said method further comprising disposing the first edge face of the roll of tape between the conveyor and the applicator.

71. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66, wherein said apparatus further comprises a second applicator positioned to receive the article, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator, said method further comprising applying a coating composition from the second applicator to the second edge face of the roll of tape.

72. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66, further comprising substantially simultaneously transferring a coating composition to a first side of an article and a second side of the article opposite said first side of the article.

73. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66 further comprising substantially simultaneously transferring a coating composition to the first edge face of said roll of tape and the second edge face of said roll of tape.

74. (Withdrawn) A method of using the apparatus of claim 1, said method comprising:
providing a coating composition to the applicator;
passing the edge face of a roll of tape to the applicator;
contacting the edge face of the roll of tape with the applicator; and
transferring the coating composition from the applicator to the edge face of the roll of tape.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein the coating composition remains on the applicator in the absence of an article to be coated.